

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
March 14, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:05 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2000, in the Auditorium of York High School by Chairman Walter C. Zaremba.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zaremba, Sheila S. Noll, Donald E. Wiggins, James S. Burgett, and Melanie L. Rapp.

Also in attendance were Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET

Mr. Stuck made a brief presentation regarding the estimated revenues and expenditures contained in the proposed FY2001 budget.

Chairman Zaremba called to order a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2001 budget which was duly advertised as required by law.

Ms. Corinne Garland, Executive Director, Child Development Resources, Inc. (CDR), thanked the Board and County staff for their support of CDR. She explained the programs and services provided by CDR which is an accredited program. Each day 50 low-income wage earners are able to go to their jobs knowing they leave their children in care that is more than just safe, but cared for emotionally and their development will be challenged. Ms. Garland stated these children are at risk, and CDR's job is to make sure they receive the best possible care and early educational development.

Ms. Joyce Adams, 120 Barn Swallow Ridge, a York County teacher, questioned why teachers should be involved in fundraisers in order to acquire sufficient monies to support their classrooms. She stated there is something wrong with a system where the professionals have to plead for money. Services provided by teachers should be deemed as valuable as other professionals, and they should be compensated for the services they provide. She spoke of other areas in the country that pay their teachers more than York County and where qualified teachers do not have to start at the bottom of the pay scale.

Ms. Jean Burton, 429 Cooper Street, Hampton, a York County teacher, stated York County teachers work tirelessly for long hours, on weekends, during the summer, and without necessary supplies and tools. They can do the job that they passionately want to do, but they need the necessary tools, technology, and adequate compensation. Ms. Burton asked the Board to support the education of York County children.

Mr. Joe Taylor, 109 Marlbank Drive, spoke concerning the needed renovations at the Yorktown Branch of the library, and he urged the Board to fully fund the renovations. He also spoke of the need to change the floor arrangement in the Yorktown Library and the need for new computers at the facility.

Ms. Katie Green, Director of Colonial Community Corrections, introduced two Colonial Community Corrections Board members, Merlin Renne and Kathy Clemens, and she asked that she be invited to the work session the Board of Supervisors would schedule to further discuss contributions in order for her to provide them with further information on Colonial Community Corrections' programs if needed.

The Honorable Merlin Renne, Judge of the General District Court, spoke concerning the Colonial Community Corrections Board, which serves six localities, and the need for funding a

Justice Planner position to plan and manage the services provided by the Board. He stated the Board has no staff, and the Board members all have full time positions. Without staff, the program will not make much progress. He noted there had been Federal funds in the past paying about 75 percent of the planner position, but that funding has reached an end. Judge Renne asked the Board to provide the requested \$20,000 to fund the position.

Ms. Kathy Clemens, James City County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, echoed the sentiments of Judge Renne, stating there is a great deal of talent on the Board trying to improve the quality of the criminal justice system in this area. Without someone to do the things the Board members cannot do on an everyday basis, the Board's mission cannot come to fruition. The benefits of this position are all local, and Ms. Clemens urged the Board to help fund the very needed position.

Ms. Susan Dolezel, President of the York Education Association, spoke concerning the Association's mission to provide and support the best possible education for York County's children. She spoke of the need for higher pay for York County's teachers, stating they are behind when their salaries are compared with those of neighboring districts. She indicated the teachers are fairly competitive with the Peninsula districts; but for teachers who have more than 10 years of experience, their salaries drop to 5th place and continue to stay down on the scale with increasing numbers of years of experience. Ms. Dolezel then spoke about the teachers retirement system and the need to increase the salary scale for vested teachers, stating they are \$2,000 below the state average and \$5,000 below the national average. York County needs to keep its talented teachers and compensate them adequately. Ms. Dolezel urged the Board of Supervisors to fully fund the proposed schools budget and work toward keeping York County's fine teachers here in York County.

Mrs. Pam Pouchot, 103 Kimberly Court, noted that several of the members of the Board of Supervisors campaigned against the \$400,000 given to Christopher Newport University, and she asked that the Board revisit that decision and put the money toward education. She spoke about being competitive with other localities in terms of personnel compensation, noting the teachers' salaries are still not competitive. Mrs. Pouchot also asked that more books be purchased for the new library, and she asked that the County stop charging fees for everything but raise the tax rate to cover them.

Mr. Jim Pouchot, 103 Kimberly Court, stressed his concerns about the \$400,000 given to Christopher Newport University last year, and he asked how the money would be utilized if the County had it back. He stated that decision was not regional cooperation with Newport News, but it was giving the State education system a donation. He noted that several of the Board members had used the donation as a platform issue during their election campaigns last year, and he asked the Board to reconsider the donation to Christopher Newport and use the money for the York County education system, the libraries, or other York County facilities.

Mr. David LeBlase, representing the Peninsula Marine Institute, indicated he had received notification that a portion of the Institute's funding request had been placed in the proposed budget for FY01. He stated that York County's hearts are with its children, and he thanked the Board of Supervisors for its wisdom by approving the proposed budget. He noted the previous comments by members of the Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board, stating that the Institute's program works to keep children out of the criminal justice system, and the County will receive a 10-fold return on its investment.

Mr. Clyde Hoey, President and CEO of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Board for the County's continued investment in the Chamber. He spoke of the major successes of the Chamber during the past year, and he thanked the Board for its leadership and support, particularly during the NASA issue. The jobs impacted are very valuable to the Peninsula community, and it is important to continue the process to see that NASA is well funded. The Chamber has introduced some new opportunities for business this year, and it handles over 3,800 business referrals for the Peninsula. Mr. Hoey stated the Chamber is putting out good information about the County, and it is included in all Chamber publications. The Chamber looks forward to a continued relationship with York County.

Mrs. Jan Farley, Chairman of the York County Library Board, spoke of the opening of the new Tabb Library facility, and she indicated the Library Board's desire to have the Yorktown facility funded for necessary refurbishment and improvements in the proposed FY01 budget. She

indicated the need for more computers, stating that more and more people are using the Internet.

There being no one else present who wished to speak concerning the proposed Fiscal Year 2001 Budget, Chairman Zaremba closed the public hearing.

PROPOSED CALENDAR YEAR 2000 TAX RATES

Chairman Zaremba then called to order a public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 00-3 which was duly advertised as required by law as is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE TAX LEVIES UPON TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, UPON MACHINERY AND TOOLS, UPON MOBILE HOMES, AND UPON REAL ESTATE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2000, AND TO PRORATE TAXES ON MOBILE HOMES

Mrs. Pam Pouchot, 103 Kimberly Court, asked the Board to raise her taxes, stating she would like to have them raised if the money would be used for education. She asked the Board to stop "feeling" the citizens to death and put the costs of these services in the tax rates.

There being no one else present who wished to speak concerning the proposed ordinance, Chairman Zaremba closed the public hearing.

Mr. Wiggins noted he had received a lot of criticism about raising taxes. He stated this Board has not raised taxes. The increase in revenue is due to the reassessment and higher property values and new construction.

Chairman Zaremba thanked the citizens for coming out and speaking tonight, stating the Board appreciated their comments and input to the budget process. He stated the Board expected to vote on the final budget at its first Regular Meeting in April, and the Board members welcomed the citizens to attend the work sessions scheduled prior to the budget adoption.

Meeting Adjourned. At 7:49 p.m. Chairman Zaremba declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

Daniel M. Stuck, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

Walter C. Zaremba, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors